

# Rosie the Riveter / World War II Home Front National Historical Park

Newsletter 2 November 2003



Dear Friends —

The avenues to economic vitality are smart planning, smart economic growth and visionary management. The City of Richmond has partnered with the National Park Service to develop the first step — Smart Planning. I strongly encourage all the citizens and community leaders in Richmond to join in the planning effort for the national historical park by reviewing this newsletter, sharing your thoughts and attending public meetings.

Congress has identified Richmond as the best place in the United States to commemorate the American Home Front contribution to winning World War II. As the City of Richmond and the National Park Service work tirelessly to establish a national historical park, I believe that our historic resources from World War II (the buildings and graving docks of Shipyard #3, the Ford Assembly Plant and other historic sites in Richmond) can be preserved and used to host and educate visitors while we continue to develop our working port and other economic opportunities.

Our goal is a harmonious balance between a profitable maritime operation and a major educational and tourist attraction. The national historical park will create a preservation and economic opportunity that complements Richmond's tourism development strategy, one that can help incubate new business opportunities for Richmond while sharing with the nation the proud and successful role Richmond played in the national effort to win World War II. I encourage the residents and business leaders of Richmond to join in the efforts to plan and establish the Rosie the Riveter / World War II Home Front National Historical Park.

The City of Richmond is proud to be a partner in this unique endeavor.

Irma L. Anderson  
Mayor, City of Richmond



Dear Friends,

As many of you know, Rosie the Riveter / World War II Home Front National Historical Park is developing a general management plan (GMP) in cooperation with the City of Richmond and other partners. When completed, the GMP will develop a vision for the park and guide the National Park Service and our partners in development and management decisions for the next 20 years.

The planning process, which will take the national historical park from an idea to reality, began last summer with a series of public meetings. We received many comments and ideas at the meetings in Richmond, Oakland, San Francisco, and Vallejo. Park staff has also met with numerous individuals, organizations, and agencies over the past year. Using this information, the partners and planning team have made significant progress in developing the following draft planning products: (1) issues, (2) purpose and significance statements, and (3) primary interpretive themes. These planning products, included in this newsletter, provide the foundation upon which the plan will be based.

We would like your comments to ensure we are moving in the right direction with planning for this park. A comment form has been included in this newsletter for your convenience. You may also e-mail your comments to us at [rori\\_gmp@nps.gov](mailto:rori_gmp@nps.gov).

I welcome you to participate in this planning process as we embark on the very exciting task of creating a national historical park in Richmond that tells the story of the World War II Home Front.

Sincerely,

Judy Hart  
Superintendent, Rosie the Riveter / WWII Home Front  
National Historical Park

## Purpose, Significance, and Primary Interpretive Themes

On April 30, 2003, a group of citizens, scholars, City of Richmond officials, and National Park Service managers gathered for a one-day workshop in the Ford Assembly Building. The focus of the workshop was the park's purpose, significance, and primary interpretive themes building upon earlier public comments and workshop products. The workshop participants discussed the stories, themes, and the historic fabric that made the City of Richmond a national example that demonstrated the "common purpose" shared by a nation during World War II. This was a national effort that required industrial, governmental, and citizen participation in organizing and producing materials to "win the war."

"Winning the war" is one story, but the Home Front effort caused substantial social changes in almost every aspect of American life. Through structures that retain their historic fabric, oral histories, images and artifacts, the park will also tell the stories of changes to the workforce, labor relations, women's and minority opportunities, family relationships, health care, child care, and the impact on urban and rural America.

The ideas and concepts from the workshop's discussions and previous public meetings and workshops were blended into the following purpose and significance statements and primary interpretive themes that will guide the planning and decision making at Rosie the Riveter / World War II Home Front National Historical Park.

We encourage you to review and comment on the following draft purpose and significance statements and the interpretive themes and return your thoughts to us using the attached comment form or by sending an e-mail to: [rori\\_gmp@nps.gov](mailto:rori_gmp@nps.gov)

### ★ Draft Purpose Statement

*The purpose of Rosie the Riveter / World War II National Historical Park is —*

to preserve for the benefit and inspiration of the people of the United States as a national historical park the stories, sites, structures, and areas located in Richmond, California, that are associated with the citizen, industrial, and governmental effort that contributed to victory in World War II and lasting change to America.

### ★ Draft Significance Statements

*Rosie the Riveter / World War II National Historical Park is significant because —*

the national historical park has the nation's largest concentration of intact World War II historic structures and sites interwoven within the City of Richmond's 1940s era historic setting which illustrate a broad spectrum of Home Front stories;

the national historical park is the National Park Service's collection center and coordinator for World War II Home Front oral histories and objects that are publicly accessible onsite and on the internet.



Ludie B Mitchell, a Rosie, being honored at the Memorial dedication, NPS photo



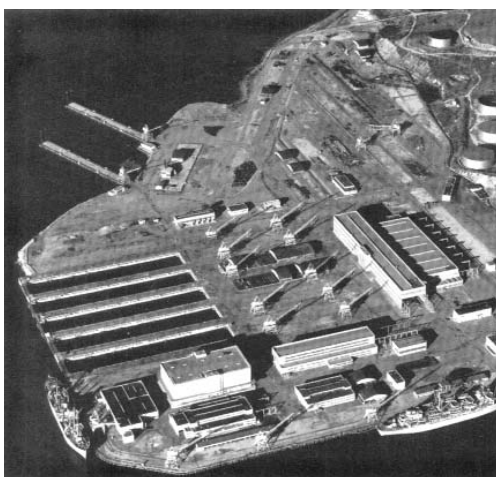
Memorial dedication, NPS photo



Shipyard #3, Richmond Redevelopment Agency



Chippers at work, National Archives



Shipyard #3 at the end of the war, Richmond Museum of History Collection photo

## ★ Draft Primary Interpretive Themes

### *The Home Front and Total War*

For the first time in America's history, the entire nation was mobilized to achieve a common purpose — victory. In no other American war, before or since, had society been organized to such an extent. "Total War" resulted in the government reaching into and regulating the nation's everyday life and culture.

"Total War" resulted in tremendous changes to American government, industry, society, and culture.

### *Common Purpose/Disparate Experience*

The United States of America had a common purpose during World War II — winning the war. But the experience of that purpose was not the same for all. Saying the nation was "united" is incorrect. Gender and racial discrimination continued to exist and caused unrest and major inequities.

The park stories will relate how the nation came together to help defeat a great darkness, but continued to have shadows of its own while doing so.

### *Shedding Light on America's Promise*

The promise of our nation's founding documents — the promise of liberty and justice for all — increasingly saw the light of day.

While America spent its lifeblood in defeating tyranny overseas, it increasingly dealt with its own hypocrisy at home.

New opportunities for women and minorities were created. Positive steps were taken in the areas of equality.

### *America Today — the Home Front Legacy*

Many elements of today's society are the legacy of the World War II Home Front effort: pre-paid medical care, public supported child care, major demographic shifts, and the resulting impact on the urban and rural America.

American family structure, the role of women and minorities in society, the struggles of the labor and the civil rights movement should play a significant role in discussions of the impacts of the Home Front on our country.

Inventions and improvements to our material culture brought about by World War II continue to be important and relevant today, including mass production processes, technological advances, such as jet and rocket propulsion, and atomic energy applications.

## Public Meetings and Comments

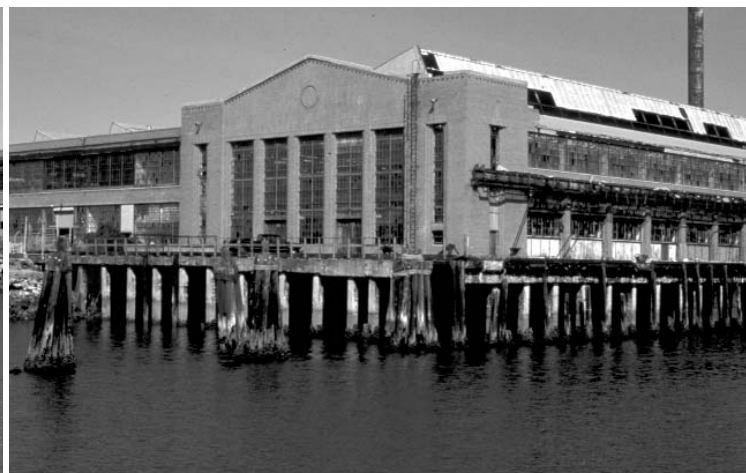
Public meetings were held throughout the San Francisco Bay Area. A broad spectrum of ideas and issues from the public, other agencies, organizations, and park staff were gathered at these meetings. Comments were grouped into the following two categories:

**1. Issues to be included in the general management plan.** Interests or concerns raised at the public meetings as well as actions that must be taken because they are already mandated by law or policy will be included in the general management plan.

**2. Comments that have been helpful in shaping the general management plan issues but are more specific and will be addressed in an implementation plan.** Comments regarding interpretive themes have been incorporated into the primary interpretive themes for the national historical park. Comments regarding interpretive programs will be incorporated into the comprehensive interpretive plan, which will follow after the general management plan has been completed. Comments regarding specific operations of the park will be included in considerations for future operating agreements among partners.



Public meetings, NPS photos



Ford assembly building, NPS photos

We encourage you to review and comment on the following draft issues and return your thoughts to us using the attached comment form or by sending an e-mail to: [rori\\_gmp@nps.gov](mailto:rori_gmp@nps.gov)

## ★ Draft Issues

### *Creating a Park*

- ★ What should be the long - range vision and goals for the park that will guide resource management, partnership opportunities, park operations, interpretation, visitor experience, potential acquisition, and development?
- ★ Which, if any, additional cultural landscapes, sites, and structures in Richmond, California, should be incorporated into the national historical park?
- ★ How should the park provide a program that allows for distance learning and educational linkages to and from other representative sites across the country?
- ★ What is the optimum location for the SS *Red Oak Victory* and the whirley crane?
- ★ Should structures be relocated to provide a more concentrated visitor experience?

### *Preserving the Resources*

- ★ How should cultural landscapes, sites, and structures be used, managed and interpreted while maintaining their historic value?

### *Park Operations*

- ★ What level of funding is needed to develop and operate the national historical park?
- ★ What conditions need to be in place to ensure a safe visitor experience?
- ★ What should the research focus of the national historical park be?
- ★ To what standards should facilities be operated and maintained?
- ★ How should the partnership to operate the national historical park function?

## *Defining the Visitor Experience*

### **Visitor transportation, circulation, and linkages**

- ★ How will visitors find the park and how do they get there?
- ★ How will visitors find their way and what modes of transportation are needed to move visitors among park and other related sites?
- ★ How does the park connect to other local, regional, and national historical opportunities?

### **Interpretation / Education**

- ★ How will park interpretation, education, collection, and curation focus on the Richmond Home Front story and the national home front story?
- ★ How can the many individual Home Front stories best be told?
- ★ How can individual contributions to the Home Front story be recognized?
- ★ What should be the purpose and function of the WW II Home Front education center?
- ★ Which sites and stories in the rest of the country should be interpreted in the national historical park?
- ★ What interpretive services and facilities are required to effectively convey the park's interpretive themes?
- ★ Which cultural resources should be interpreted?

### **Access and Use of Park Sites**

- ★ How should visitor opportunities coexist with other uses of historic sites and structures?
- ★ What is the amount and location of guided and unguided visitor access that is appropriate throughout the park?
- ★ How should the park promote public access to the historic waterfront?

### *Collecting Stories, Memorabilia, and Historical Items*

- ★ What are the philosophy and goals for collecting World War II Home Front stories?
- ★ What are the philosophy and goals for the park's collections and archives? What are the curation, storage, access and display needs for the park's collections and archives?



## Why is a Partnership in the Development of the Park Important?

Rosie the Riveter / World War II Home Front National Historical Park is a partnership park that depends on public and private organizations and agencies to create a vital and meaningful park. The congressional legislation that created the park directed the National Park Service to prepare a general management plan (GMP) to direct the long-range management decisions about the park. A “Plan to Preserve the Historic Setting,” prepared in conjunction with and approved by the City of Richmond, will also be prepared.

## Where is Rosie the Riveter / World War II Home Front National Historical Park?

The establishing legislation identified the following structures and sites in Richmond:

- ★ Richmond Shipyard #3 including basins one through five and five historic structures
- ★ Ford Assembly building and oil house
- ★ Rosie the Riveter Memorial
- ★ SS *Red Oak Victory* and whirley cranes
- ★ Ruth C. Powers and Maritime Child Development Centers
- ★ Kaiser Field Hospital
- ★ Atchison Village worker housing
- ★ Richmond Fire Station 67A
- ★ Bay Trail & Esplanade
- ★ Sheridan Observation Point Park
- ★ Barbara and Jay Vincent Park
- ★ Shimada Friendship Park
- ★ Lucretia Edwards Shoreline Park

## Partnerships

The Rosie the Riveter / World War II Home Front National Historical Park can only become a reality through the cooperative work of its partners. The initial partners and their responsibilities are:

### National Park Service

The National Park Service will plan and administer the interpretive and educational programs of the Rosie the Riveter / World War II Home Front National Historical Park.

### City of Richmond

The City of Richmond is engaged in cooperative planning with the general management plan and co-planning with the “Plan to Preserve the Historic Setting.” The City of Richmond owns and maintains a large number of the historic structures, including Shipyard #3, the Port of Richmond. Some City of Richmond sites are on the waterfront and have been converted to public parks and esplanades that include interpretive exhibits, including the Rosie the Riveter Memorial. In a partnership between the City of Richmond and a developer, the former Ford Assembly Building will be rehabilitated for commercial use and will house the Rosie the Riveter / World War II Home Front National Historical Park Education Center.

### Contra Costa County

The county owns the Ruth C. Powers and Maritime Child Develop Centers included in the park. The county operates a child development program in both structures that have been in continuous use for child care since World War II.

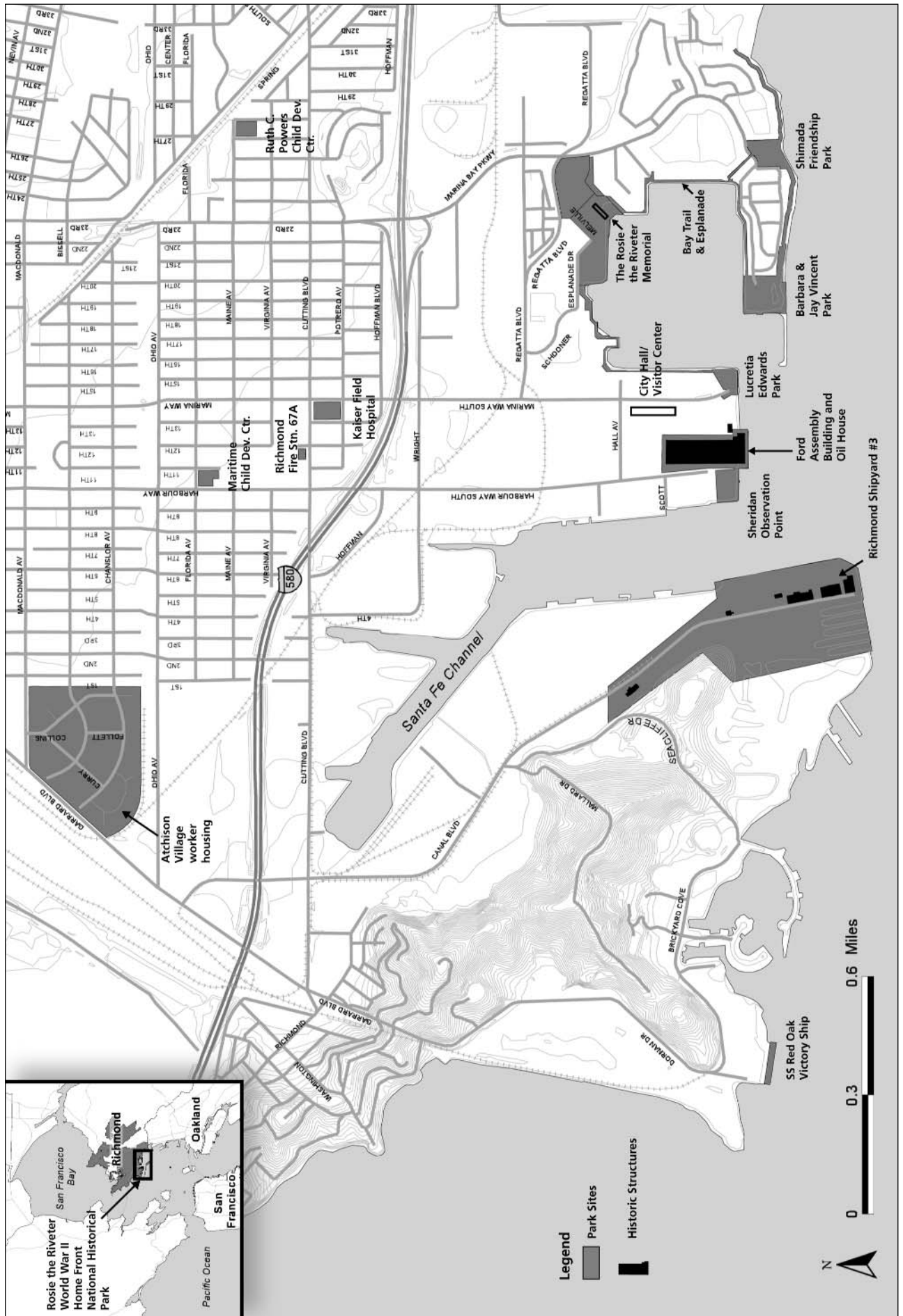
### Richmond Museum Association

The Richmond Museum Association is a nonprofit corporation that operates the Richmond Museum of History. The Richmond Museum Association acquired title to the SS *Red Oak Victory* and is engaged in fund-raising and restoration activities. Public tours of the SS *Red Oak Victory* are conducted year-round.

### Rosie the Riveter Trust

The Trust was organized in 1999 to help preserve the historic resources of the Rosie the Riveter / World War II Home Front National Historical Park, implement its programs, and teach the story of the Home Front.

# Rosie the Riveter / World War II Home Front National Historical Park







## What Legal Mandates Influence the Plan?

When Congress established the Rosie the Riveter / World War II Home Front National Historical Park through Public Law 106-352, it mandated the National Park Service complete several tasks and constrained National Park Service participation in a few areas. These commitments and constraints are:

- ★ The national historical park will be developed and operated through joint partnerships.
- ★ A comprehensive collection of oral histories will be provided at the national historical park.
- ★ The national historical park will include a program that allows for distance learning.
- ★ The park will link with other WW II Home Front sites.
- ★ The general management plan will be prepared in consultation with the City of Richmond.
- ★ The National Park Service and the City of Richmond will jointly develop a “Plan to Preserve the Historic Setting.”
- ★ The general management plan will determine which additional sites in Richmond should be added to the park and which sites in the rest of the United States should be linked to and interpreted at the park.
- ★ The National Park Service will conduct a theme study of the WW II Home Front assessing sites around the country for potential inclusion into the national park system. The information from this study will influence decisions in the general management plan.
- ★ The Park Service may not own certain properties nor maintain nor manage them:
  - ★ Rosie the Riveter Memorial
  - ★ SS *Red Oak Victory*
  - ★ Ford Assembly Building
  - ★ Basin docks and five historic structures at Richmond Shipyard #3
  - ★ Bay Trail / Esplanade
  - ★ Shimada Peace Memorial Park
  - ★ Barbara and Jay Vincent Park
  - ★ Lucretia Edwards Park
  - ★ Sheridan Observation Point Park
- ★ National Park Service funds cannot be used for operation, maintenance, or preservation of the vessel SS *Red Oak Victory*.

## Why Is a General Management Plan Needed?

Park planning is a decision-making process. General management plans are required for all units in the national park system and are intended to set the management direction for the park for the next 15 to 20 years. It focuses on why the park was established (purpose and significance) and what resource conditions and visitor experiences should be achieved and maintained over time (desired conditions). The general management plan looks years into the future when dealing with the framework of natural and cultural processes. Site-specific planning will be done in later implementation plans.

There are two broad purposes for a general management plan:

- ★ Clearly describe the desired conditions, the specific resource conditions and visitor experiences to be achieved in a park, and identify the kinds of management, use, and development that will be appropriate for achieving and maintaining those conditions.
- ★ Ensure that this basic foundation for decision making is developed in consultation with interested stakeholders and adopted by National Park Service leadership after an adequate analysis of the benefits, environmental impacts, and economic costs of alternative courses of action.

Completing a general management plan does not guarantee implementation funding. The general management plan will not assign operations or maintenance responsibilities for individual parcels.



## How Does the National Park Service General Management Plan Relate to the City of Richmond's General Plan?

The *Richmond General Plan* guides the community's long-range development, and its goals and policies represent the city's overall philosophy on public and private development. It also provides a foundation for public and private decision making on related issues. Because Richmond is a chartered city, its general plan includes the required seven elements — land use, circulation, housing, conservation, open space, noise, and safety.

The city is currently embarking on a revision of its plan. The planning processes for both the city's plan and the park's general management plan will be closely interwoven.



Top: Planning work session, NPS photo  
Below: Cyclists on the Bay Trail, NPS photo



Rosies and National Park Service staff at the 2000 Olympics parade in Richmond, NPS photo

Our next step is to develop different alternatives for establishing and managing the national historical park. Each alternative will be built around a concept or philosophy, derived from public comments, which describe a possible direction for the future. We will share the resulting preliminary alternatives and request your input via another newsletter and our website next winter.

STEP	TIMEFRAME	PLANNING ACTIVITY	WHAT YOU CAN DO
1	Summer 2002- Winter 2003?	<b>Project Startup.</b> Assemble planning team and designed the process for carryout the project. Publish newsletter 1.	Attended public scoping meetings. Signed up on the park mailing list.
2	Spring 2003 - Summer 2003  <b>WE ARE HERE</b>	<b>Identify the Planning Context.</b> Develop purpose, significance, and primary interpretive themes for the park, determine issues and concerns, and gather and analyze information. Publish newsletter 2.	Read the newsletter and comment on purpose, significance, and primary interpretive themes.
3	Fall 2003 – Winter 2004	<b>Develop Alternatives.</b> Develop a reasonable range of alternative future conditions and management. Publish newsletter 3.	Review and comment on newsletter including alternatives. Participate in public meetings on the alternatives.
4	Spring 2004 – Summer 2005	<b>Prepare and Publish the Draft GMP/EIS.</b> The draft document will be distributed for public review. It will describe the planning context, management alternatives, and impacts.	Review draft plan and send us your comments. Participate in public meetings on the draft plan.
5	Fall 2005 – Spring 2006	<b>Revise and Publish the Final GMP/EIS.</b> Appropriate changes will be made to the draft document based on public comments, environmental analysis, and other information. The final GMP/EIS will be distributed.	Review the final GMP/EIS.
6	Summer 2006	<b>Publish Record of Decision.</b> The ultimate choice of an alternative, mitigation measures, and the decision rationale are documented and printed in the Federal Register and local newspaper.	
7	Summer 2006 and beyond	<b>Implement the Plan.</b> After a record of decision is issued, the management directions in the plan will be carried out as funding allows.	

There are several opportunities built into the steps of the process for public involvement, but these are not your only opportunities. Please feel free to contact the park superintendent about this partnership planning effort with your questions, observations, thoughts, and ideas anytime in the process.

## The Rosie the Riveter Memorial



The Rosie the Riveter Memorial, Lewis Watts photo

Rosie the Riveter Memorial Park is located at Melville Square and Esplanade Drive in Richmond, California. It is open from dawn to dusk.

## The SS Red Oak Victory Ship



The SS Red Oak Victory, NPS photo

The SS Red Oak Victory is located at the SS Red Oak Victory Terminal, 1500 Dornan Drive, Richmond California. Tours of the ship are available Tuesday through Sunday, weather permitting. call Red Oak Victory ship (510) 237-2933 or Richmond Museum of History (510) 235-2933 [www.redoakvictory.org](http://www.redoakvictory.org)



**National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior**

**Rosie the Riveter / World War II  
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*We hope you'll participate actively in the development of the Rosie the Riveter / WWII Home Front National Historical Park. However, if you'd like to be removed from the park's mailing list, please contact the park.*

**EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA**